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Redevelopment Board Minutes 02/03/2014

Arlington Redevelopment Board
February 3, 2014
Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.
Approved: March 3, 2014
PRESENT: Andrew Bunnell, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Christine Scypinski, Andy West
ABSENT: Mike Cayer
STAFF: Carol Kowalski

Ms. Scypinski chaired the meeting
Documents used:
January 28 2014 document from Jason Sobel, Green International
January 30, 2014 memorandum from the Transportation Advisory Committee
Photo of Cape Cod Rail Trail stop sign
MUTCD page

Laura Wiener, the ARB's designee to the Transportation Advisory Committee, and Jeff Maxtutis and Rich Turcotte, co-Chairs of (TAC), reported to the Board on the Summer Street/ Brattle Street/ Hemlock Street/ Symmes Road signal optimization and the Minuteman Bike Path alternatives for safe travel at the Mill Street crossing. For the first signal in question Mr. Maxtutis reported that the signal detector loop had not been working properly. TAC proposed increasing the signal time, as detailed in the document from consultant Jason Sobel of Green International, which would improve service from Level of Service E to Level of Service D, which Mr. Maxtutis felt was fairly significant. The afternoon service would improve from D to C. They would check on possibility for allowing right turn on red from Symmes Road. Jake Upton from Arlington 360 commented that they could make these changes right away. He confirmed that the developer would pay to make these signal timing changes.

Mr. Fitzsimmons moved to accept the traffic mitigation proposal for the Summer Street/ Brattle Street/ Hemlock Street/ Symmes Road and Mill Street as described in the memorandum by Jason Sobel of Green International dated January 28, 2014, and that the ARB release from the Special Permit condition the \$40,000 escrow. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor.

The Board then turned to the subject of improving the compliance with the bikeway crossing and Mill Street. Mr. Maxtutis introduced Stefan Miller and Christopher Tonkin of the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee. Mr. Maxtutis said that the Mill Street beacon was still being reviewed and that he did not know results of tests. TAC came up with a list of measures consistent with the Toole report for sign and pavement markings to encourage compliance with stopping on the bikepath before crossing Mill Street.

Mr. Maxtutis commented that whether cyclists have to dismount and walk their bikes or whether they can ride through is a gray area in state law. He said that TAC was not recommending specific language for signs. A photo was presented of a stop sign used on the Cape Cod Rail Trail stating that cyclist had to walk bikes. Mr. Tonkin said that bollards also prevent cars from driving up the bikeway, but they can be driven over by emergency vehicles and removed for snow removal. Mr. Maxtutis said that Lexington is removing their gates at the street crossings with the bikepath. Mr. Fitzsimmons asked about bollards elsewhere. Mr. Miller replied that there were supposed to be bollards elsewhere but they get removed or run over by vehicles and are not replaced. Ms. Scypinski asked whether the group looked at reconfiguration of the crossing. Mr. Maxtutis replied that a chicane would have to go outside the right-of-way. Ms. Scypinski observed that it would go in the Alta Brigham's easement, adding that the last time the Board met, they thought a chicane was worth pursuing. Mr. Maxtutis replied that it has merits. Ms. Wiener said she would contact WP East to determine how to contact the new owner to explore this. Ms. Scypinski asked for a layout and an estimate. Mr. Tonkin commented that it would only work on one side.

The Board and TAC then discussed the need to prune the trees and shrubs on the southeast corner of the crossing to improve visibility. Mr. Maxtutis said the Town would have the right to do so regardless of ownership.

The Board and TAC continued to discuss whether the signs would indicate who has the right of way, and what cyclists are expected to do at the crossing. The Toole report was cited as recommending that on small streets, cyclist would have the right-of-way.

Ms. Scypinski asked TAC to work on a chicane, adding that unless adjusting the flashing beacon was expensive, there should be money for a chicane. Mr. Maxtutis responded that TAC could look into it on a concept level, but there was no design expertise on the TAC working group. Mr. Fitzsimmons also asked that TAC return with proposed reading of the intersection signage. TAC will try to come back to the Board within a month to discuss their findings. Ms. Wiener would find out if DPW has the extra bollards and ask whether the DPW staff can remove them rather than drive over them. She would also report if the owner of the Alta project will extend the escrow deadline.

Ms. Kowalski then reported on the zoning bylaw amendment warrant articles submitted and the timeline for the hearing. Mr. Fitzsimmons asked that the article sponsors know to make presentations, since the public perception is that the ARB is the sponsor if the Board is holding the hearing. Ms. Kowalski responded that she will continue to communicate that point to the sponsors.

Mr. Fitzsimmons then moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014 as amended. Mr. Bunnell seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Fitzsimmons moved to adjourn at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Kowalski